

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Since 1911.

Wednesday, October 24, 1990

Government raises the price of AIDS

by Eric Smith

Until last week, AZT, the most frequently prescribed drug for people with AIDS, was free for people enrolled in test programs in Québec. But now that AZT has been approved for pharmacy sales, people with AIDS may have to pay as much as \$6000 a year.

Fifty AIDS activists demonstrated Monday in front of the Montréal offices of the Ministry of Health and Human Services, demanding that people with AIDS be given free access to medication.

At least, activists argued, HIV (the virus linked to AIDS) should be included on the government's *malades sur pied* program, which would significantly reduce medical costs.

The program offers prescribed medication for chronic illnesses such as cancer and cystic fibrosis, at a cost of two dollars a month per drug. But AIDS is not on Québec's list of 'chronic illnesses'.

The Comité des personnes atteintes du VIH (CPAVIH, or Committee of people with HIV) began requesting in 1988 that HIV conditions be included in the program.

Not just AZT

Aerosolized pentamidine, an effective medication for early treatment of HIV-related pneumonia

Enjoy

AZT

The U.S. government has spent one billion dollars over the past 10 years to research new AIDS drugs. The result, 1 drug—AZT. It makes half the people who try it sick and for the other half it stops working after a year. Is AZT the last, best hope for people with AIDS, or is it a short-cut to the killing Burroughs Wellcome is making in the AIDS marketplace? Scores of drugs languish in government pipelines, while fortunes are made on this monopoly.

IS THIS HEALTH CARE OR WEALTH CARE?

(PCP) has also been available free in a commercial test project. The manufacturers have announced plans to commercialize it and its cost is not yet known.

Now that AZT and pentamidine may no longer be available free in

test programs, the cost of treating AIDS and HIV could skyrocket. The provincial government has promised to continue supplying those who were enrolled in the AZT test programs, but has no policy for future diagnoses. Even if people

with AIDS are reimbursed for drugs they pay for up-front, many people will not be able to afford the immediate costs.

According to demonstrators from CPAVIH and ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power),

people who cannot afford the current costs of medication either do without potentially vital drugs, or go on medical welfare. Activists argue that forcing people with average incomes onto welfare ends up costing the state more than subsidizing the cost of medication.

Chris Cockrill of CPAVIH estimates providing free aerosolized pentamidine in a subsidy program would save the province thousands in hospitalization costs for people with acute PCP.

Demonstrators marched in front of the ministry, which locked all its doors for the duration of the protest. One activist was arrested and charged with mischief for allegedly breaking one of the doors to the building.

ACT-UP representative Michael Hendrix called the demonstration an 'opening shot'. "We wanted to forewarn the minister that we are making an issue of it," he said.

CPAVIH has asked for a meeting with ministry officials to discuss their demands. Spokespeople for Minister Marc-Yvan Côté say the issue of medication costs is now a top priority.

ACT-UP will plan more demonstrations if its demands are not given priority on the province's health-care agenda.

Students seek access to hike information

by Heidi Modro
Canadian University Press

(CUP) The secret behind Québec's decision to raise tuition fees by 130 per cent may soon be out in the open.

A group of Québec students has taken the province to the Access to Information Commission, demanding the release of a copy of the cabinet decision to raise tuition fees this year.

"Students have a right to know how the province's leaders decided to raise tuition fees," said Nicholas Plourde, of the Fédération des Etudiantes et Etudiants du Québec (FEEQ). "We're talking about a decision that affects over 200 000 students. Of course it should be made public."

The federation says it needs the document — passed during a ministers' meeting last year — to build a court case against the govern-

ment for imposing last year's 130 per cent fee hike.

The federation is scheduled to appear before Québec courts later this semester to ask for the rescinding of the hike.

Québec fees — frozen at about \$540 since 1968 — went up to \$890 this fall and will increase to \$1240 in 1991-1992.

Plourde said the increase contravenes the Canadian Charter of

Rights and Freedoms, which protects the individual's right to education.

"We believe the content of those pages could help us win in Court," Plourde said. "And even if what is in it doesn't, students still have the right to know about the content of a document which has had a major impact on them."

But Marcel Blanchet, the government's representative dur-

ing the access to information hearing, said it is within the government's legal rights not to make the document public.

"The government has nothing to hide," Blanchet said. "The document has nothing to do with students. It merely gives certain administrative details about the hike."

McGill's Students' Society is assisting with the court case, and holding a referendum on FEEQ membership this week.

Posters still up but ballot box missing

Students reported procedural errors in the early hours of the FEEQ referendum which got underway yesterday.

Pro-FEEQ posters still hung on the walls of the Leacock building and the Redpath Library though the referendum guidelines forbid poster in the vicinity of an active polling station.

The ballot box scheduled to open in Thomson House at 10h did not appear until 13h, according to PGSS executive member Tamara Myers.

Thomson House is the headquarters of the PGSS-driven 'no' committee.

These nettles were reported at noon to members of students' council who scurried to locate Chief Returning Officer Eric Steinman.

Steinman graciously accepted blame for the polling station foul-up and the three hours of lost voting.

The "yes" and "no" committees were responsible for the removal of their respective posters.



Close your eyes and make a wish.

DAILY PHOTO: NADINE LEE

EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

The Innu of Nitassinan (Labrador-Québec) have resisted the NATO occupation of their homeland since military low-level flights began in 1981. Since 1987, hundreds of Innu have been arrested exercising their sovereignty over their own lands.

Although NATO's large fighter and weapons training centre is no longer to be built at Goose Bay, Labrador, the air force base there has been expanded considerably and the number of low-level flights continue to multiply.

As the June 1 Toronto Star reported, "Low-level military flights in Labrador could more than double from existing levels... Lt-Col. Jean-Paul Chabot said flying could be increased to a maxi-

mum of 16 000 to 18 000 flights a year."

The Innu see the low-level flights as a direct threat to the environment, and thus an indirect threat to their way of life, culture and language. Daniel Ashini, an Innu chief, has called the effect low-level flights have on his people, "cultural genocide."

Mapel Ashini, an Innu spokesperson, will speak tonight at McGill on "The Innu Resistance to Low-Level Flights over Nitassinan." A slide presentation will accompany the talk.

Tonight, 19h30, Leacock 232. Call 842-0906 for more information.

McGill Friends of First Nations

X LEAVE YOUR MARK AT MCGILL



Elections McGill

POLL LOCATIONS — FEEQ REFERENDUM '90
ASUS VP Admin. By-election

	Tuesday Oct. 23	Wednesday Oct. 24	Thursday Oct. 25
1) Bishop Mountain Hall	11-13:30 16:30-19	16:30-19	
2) Bronfman	11-17:00	10-16:00	10-16:00
3) Burnside Basement		10-16:00	10-16:00
4) Chancellor Day Hall		10-16:00	10-16:00
5) Dentistry & Anatomy		10-16:00	10-16:00
6) Education		10-16:00	10-16:00
7) Leacock	11-16:00	10-16:00	10-16:00
8) McConnell	11-16:00	10-16:00	10-16:00
9) McIntyre		10-16:00	10-14:00
10) Music		10-16:00	10-16:00
11) Redpath	11-19:00	10-19:00	10-16:00
12) Royal Victoria College		11:30-13:30 16:30-18:30	
13) Stewart-Biology		10-16:00	10-16:00
14) Thomson House	12-19:00	12-19:00	12-16:00
15) Union Building	11-19:00	10-19:00	10-16:00
16) Gym		12-17:00	12-16:00

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Pedestrians protest neglected rights

by Michael Dolenko

Montréal pedestrians' lives are at risk, say city activists.

Almost 3000 pedestrians were hit by cars in greater Montréal in 1988. The accidents caused 45 deaths and 375 serious injuries, according to the Régie d'assurance automobile du Québec.

On Saturday afternoon, the Club for Alternatives to the Auto (CAA) sponsored a demonstration to make people aware of the plight of pedestrians in Montréal, spokesman Peter McQueen said.

"The death and injury caused to pedestrians by cars is carnage," McQueen said. "It's brought about because cars are given complete rights. We want to carve out a space for pedestrians in the city," he said.

Chanting "droits aux piétons" and carrying a large pedestrian-crossing sign on a wooden frame,

about 25 demonstrators blocked traffic on St. Laurent at Bagg St.

While demonstrators marched across the crosswalk on St. Laurent, motorists honked their horns in frustration. One driver gunned his engine and forced the pedestrians to let him pass.

The CAA wants the city to install flashing signs above the street to mark crosswalks and issue tickets to drivers who don't stop for pedestrians, McQueen said.

The crosswalk on St. Laurent at Bagg consists of yellow bands painted on the street and a sign at the side of the road.

"If police were here and started giving out tickets, drivers would start respecting the law," said Bob Silverman of Le Monde a Bicyclette. "All we have here is this little sign. It's a joke."

Officer Angele Joyal of the

police community relations department did not know the number of drivers ticketed for failing to yield the right of way to pedestrians. She said that part of the problem lies with pedestrians.

"Only a minority of pedestrians obey the law. The majority of people jay walk and ignore traffic signals," Joyal said.

David Bedard, a candidate for the White Elephant Party in the November 4 municipal elections, said the city's signs are putting the lives of citizens at risk.

"It's very dangerous here," Bedard said. "I've travelled all over the country and Montréal is the only major city without lit crosswalks."

Robert Kahle, of the Montréal department of public works, was unavailable for comment on the safety of pedestrian crosswalks.



Clara Koot, a resident of Clark St., said she was protesting to tell municipal politicians that she feels threatened on St. Laurent.

"I have to risk my life and my safety to cross the street," Koot said. "The yellow band for pedes-

trian-crossing is not respected by motorists. They pressure us to re-code or run in haste.

"I'm always in danger. It's totally unnecessary when every citizen pays taxes for the use of the streets."

Jeanne-Mance district battles gentrification

by Stephanie Conway

The following district profile is the second in a Daily series intended to help students sort out the issues in the November 4 municipal elections. Peter McGill was profiled Monday. Still to come: the Plateau, Saint-Jacques, Saint-Henri and Mile End, and a special Municipal Election issue November 1.

Montréal's Jeanne-Mance district, from Mont-Royal to Sherbrooke between University and St-Denis, is plagued with problems ranging from an epidemic of nightclubs on the Main to parks made of concrete.

The multi-ethnic, cosmopolitan community is being threatened by gentrification and the related problems of housing, parking and traffic, according to candidates. A lack of green space and effective crime-fighting are also increasing problems in this district.

Hot Issues

Housing

Housing is a growing concern in this district. With gentrification running rampant, condo-conversion, high rents and the lack of low-income and co-op housing are high up on the election hit list.

Michel Prescott, MCM candidate, says he is "in favour of ownership but not at the expense of tenants' rights." (Tenants make up seventy per cent of Montréal inhabitants.)

"We must put a stop to the increase in property taxes, especially at the evaluation level," said Maria Oliveria, Civic Party Candidate. Condo conversion is nice for those who can afford it, she said.

Parking and Traffic

With its expanding commercial district, St-Laurent Blvd. is an important focus for this campaign. The MCM is pushing for a regulation to reserve parking for tenants,

according to Prescott.

The lack of parking on St-Laurent is an especial problem for businesses, according to Oliveria. "Business people undergo hell for parking tickets," she said.

There are also inadequate traffic routes running north toward Pine Ave. The Parc-Pine Interchange is an ongoing area of concern. "It is an ugly frontier and barrier from Milton Park to Mount Royal," said Prescott.

The poorly-designed structure has caused numerous accidents and blocks access to the mountain for residents, according to Dimitrios Roussopoulos, Ecology Montréal hopeful.

Poverty

The poverty problem in the Jeanne-Mance district is a symptom of insufficient housing, according to Prescott. He proposes job creation and housing protection as remedies.

Oliveria suggests that the administration take a walk down Montréal streets at night. "It breaks my heart to see young kids sleeping on the sidewalks of St-Laurent at night," she said.

Gentrification

Saint-Laurent is now the newest hub of commercial activity, with a total of twenty new bars and several new businesses since the last elections.

"Businesses who have been on St-Laurent for years are having to leave because of the bars. It is becoming another Ste-Catherines," said Oliveria.

Green Space

The unavailability green space is a major problem for the Jeanne-Mance district. "The MCM is now planning to build a new park at Rachel and Saint-Laurent, but there is not very much space available," said Prescott.

The city is renewing the Portuguese Park on Saint-Laurent, but it will be made mostly of concrete and will cost \$400 000.

Prescott proposes that the city buy a \$10 million lot on Sherbrooke to use as a park.

Crime

Candidates agreed crime is a growing problem in the riding.

According to Roussopoulos, there is a need for neighborhood watch programs in the district to reduce robbery and vandalism.

"We need to get more police back on foot patrol," said Oliveria. "If they were forced to walk people would feel more secure."

The Candidates

There are four candidates running for council in the Jeanne-Mance district. MCM incumbent Michel Prescott, though well-liked municipally, can boast few direct deliveries to Jeanne-Mance constituents. Thus, he faces four strong challenges, including one from a party founder.

Michel Prescott (Montréal Citizens' Movement)

The main interest of Prescott, incumbent councillor, is to freeze the distribution of new permits for bars on St-Laurent (though his administration dealt out a new round of them this month). He is concerned about the increasing problems of noise and parking and upholds the MCM's initiative to reserve parking for residents.

Prescott also proposes the Parc-Pine interchange be changed into a roundabout or traffic circle. He said a recent study shows that an ordinary crossroad would only create more traffic problems.

The city can help with housing problems by creating more co-ops and low-income housing, Prescott said.

Quote: "My priority is to provide quality of life for the people."

Dimitri Roussopoulos (Ecology Montréal)

Roussopoulos was instrumental in the development of the district's Milton-Parc Co-op, the largest Co-op in North America, and the founding of Ecology Montréal.

A publisher for Black Rose Books, he is largely concerned with ecological problems as they relate

to all issues of urban interest. He proposes the creation of a community council to develop the local economy and to create socially useful employment.

The focus of Roussopoulos' campaign is the development of better recycling programs, the expansion of green space and the resolution of parking problems. He would like to see priority parking for residents and a normal intersection at the Parc-Pine interchange.

Quote: "What Dimitri does really well is to link environmental issues with other issues." (Roussopoulos' strategy and media coordinator Andrea Levy.)

Victor Rodriguez (Municipal Party)

Rodriguez has gained his reputation as an active volunteer at Sun Youth, as a renowned soccer player and, in this campaign, as a supporter of removing the moratorium of condo-conversion.

His main concerns include lack of parking for residents, increased crime, and the need for more shelters for women, children and seniors. He said he supports development which "respects old neighborhoods."

Quote: "Victor is not like other politicians. He's a real guy. He knows what's happening." (Campaign supporter Charles Nadeira.)

Maria Oliveria (Civic Party)

Oliveria is concerned about local issues affecting established immigrant businesses, as a member of the large Portuguese population.

Oliveria says she wants to see more kindergartens and homes for the "old folk who contributed to the Montréal economy, now run in such an ugly way."

Quote: "I like to act not just talk." (In reference to her campaign slogan, "Because directing is more than talk.")

NEWS BRIEFS

Probing learning

A cross-country commission probing the relevance of Canadian Universities came to Montréal this week.

The two-day hearings at the downtown Citadelle hotel began Monday morning. The research will be compiled next year in a report by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

The hearings were an opportunity for students to address a wide range of topics affecting education. A small number of McGill reps attended though the largest student association, Students' Society did not participate.

McGill's Janet Donald, Director of the Centre for University Teaching and Learning, presented an 11-page brief on Monday. "I don't think universities have received the support they merit for the development of students and their learning," said Donald.

Also attending was a representative of McGill graduate students presenting a brief on quality of education and accessibility.

Affirmative amendment

The Women's Union submitted an amendment to the Students' Society constitution — an affirmative action clause — last Monday.

The amendment will go before council tomorrow. If approved by council, the changes to the constitution would go to student referendum for ratification next Spring.

An affirmative action clause will make it constitutional for groups like the Women's Union to restrict membership so long as they are "devoted exclusively to the well-being of a disadvantaged group."

THE MCGILL DAILY

"Of all the criticisms I have heard, (concern about tax on religious books) worries me the most." - Brian Mulroney speaking to B.C. high school students.

COMMENT

Swelling the ranks of 'undeserving' Canadians

In a last-ditch effort to prolong the great GST debate, Liberal senators gave way to a vote on Bill C-21, the Unemployment Insurance Bill, earlier this week.

The Bill has in fact already been in partial effect since January first - the federal government has already buckled down on eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance (UIC). Eligibility qualifications now range from 10 to 20 weeks, depending on the region.

Bill C-21 solidifies ideological images of the 'deserving' and 'undeserving' poor. In Montréal particularly, those 'deserving' of UIC must have worked a minimum of 20 full weeks. The 'undeserving' are forced to turn to financial aid of last resort, welfare - which also has recently been subject to drastic overhaul.

And the Québec Welfare Reform provides an even grander, more complicated model for determining qualifications for the deserving poor. By determining recipients' cheques according to welfare agents' judgements of 'employability', Québec is also classifying recipients according to 'deservability'.

Moreover, Bill C-21 promises to redirect funds to the tune of \$800 million to "improved job training programs." Despite the Government's eagerness to bring the Bill into full effect by November 18, however, Barbara McDougall has disclosed little information about what form these retraining programs will take.

If they are to look anything like Bourbou's Work and Employment Incentive Program under the Québec Welfare Reform, these programs will only serve to cloak the creation of a slave labour pool. Participants will provide cheap labour for employers who will have no legal obligation to hire them once the projects are through.

In the meantime, Canadians will be fed yet another myth about poverty: that our outrageous unemployment rate is not the fault of the government, nor of business practices, but to be blamed on the nation's poor.

Katerina Cizek
Carl Wilson

Student Infigthing

To the Daily:

Once again I have been shocked and appalled by one of the things that I have read in the *Daily*. This time it was Mary-Margaret Jones' letter, which appeared in the Oct. 18 edition. This is a lady with an ATTITUDE, but not only that, she is rather offensive as well. I must admit though, her letter did have some endearing qualities, like when she says that everyone who likes the *Daily* is a leftist-artsy-radical. (Yes, why don't you just say it, we are all reefer smokin' druggies, too!)

Despite the few good laughs in her letter, I think that it actually does, although unknowingly, hit at something deeper, i.e. the fact that all of these different student organizations are ripping the student body apart.

I have never seen so many back biting, snotty, childish people as I have at McGill lately. FEEQ hates ANEEQ, PGSS hates SSMU (don't you just love the acronyms?), the *Daily* apparently hates almost everybody, and I am fucking fed up with all of it.

In her letter, Ms. Jones at one point says "GET A BLOODY GRIP ON REALITY". Good advice, but it should not be aimed at the *Daily*, it should be aimed at every student at McGill. It's time to realize that the only thing these so-called "stu-

dent" societies are doing is bickering amongst themselves and, in the process, breaking apart their actual foundations, the student body as a whole. Smart, eh?

So come on people, "get a grip on reality" and tell these organizations to bugger off and leave us alone. Maybe someday (hopefully soon) a group of people will form a mature student society, that will actually represent us properly, but until then, I'm certainly not going to give a flying fart of support to ANY "student" organization, and I advise everyone else to do the same. After all, what's the point of having a student government (whether it be FEEQ, ANEEQ, SSMU, or any other one you can think of) if the people in it are not mature or intelligent enough to handle the issues properly, and with dignity.

James Haslam
Arts U

More Pillar talk

To the Daily:

In the October 15th issue of the *Daily*, you accuse Colin Krivy of unprofessionalism, presuming his unfavorable review of the *Pillar* to be the result of a personal vendetta against Lina Saigol. How ironic—considering that in the same breath you proceed to denounce Alex Usher's well-written article on

the ground that Alex Usher wrote it.

It's wonderful that you are managing to resolve the 'differences' you have obviously had with Lina—maybe you could recommend a good grammarian to her at the next peace talk.

Nevertheless, it is illogical (not to mention infantile and petty) to automatically assume that if a reviewer is unimpressed with a publication, it is for personal and not artistic reasons.

It seems to me, Don, that your editorial could be summed up in about ten words as well:

I like
The Pillar
Cuz Lina
Is editor
Not Alex.

Katherine Gougeon
U3 BA

Don't blame the messenger

To the Daily:

I was disturbed by Mary-Margaret Jones' letter published in the *Daily* on October 18th. Ms. Jones is whining about the fact that the *Daily* has raised the issue of SSMU spending \$24 000 on its information kiosk.

In her post-script, Jones writes "PGSS representatives did not vote against the info kiosk." I honestly can say that I didn't vote in favour of spending \$24 000 for a kiosk. The minutes of SSMU Council of July 11, 1990 (SC90-91, M-3) only mentioned "adopted" (p. 5) - not "unanimous" for the motion to ratify the actions of SSMU executive. No roll call vote was taken on this issue. As there is no written voting record of any SSMU Councillors on this issue, Jones' statement is only allegation.

The \$24 000 saga of the SSMU information kiosk is the result of a lack of genuine control by SSMU Council on the SSMU machine. At the previous SSMU Council meeting (18th April), the VP Internal's report (D-18) didn't mention any estimates for the kiosk. It is the Executive that adopted a motion on August 2, 1990 approving the spending of \$24 000.

I believe that Jones' letter was motivated by the fact that the campus media - the *Daily* and the *Tribune* - have been critical of actions undertaken by SSMU. What is wrong with that? Don't blame the messenger - i.e. the media - for SSMU's mistakes.

Eric Darier
PGSS rep to SSMU Council

HYDE PARK

FEEQ: remember what we're voting on

Last year, the Bourassa Liberal government abandoned a 20 year tradition of increasing accessibility and pronounced an end to its tuition fee freeze, despite powerful opposition from Québec students.

In the wake of that loss, the student movement has entered a period of crisis and confusion. Many potential federations are vying for students' political loyalties. One of these, FEEQ, is asking for McGill's membership in a referendum this week.

McGill's membership in FEEQ would have serious social implications. These issues should undergo a more critical and objective inspection than the 'Yes' or 'No' committees are providing. Students ought to consider the following questions before deciding how to vote.

•What should McGill's goals be in joining any student federation?

Presumably, we should not affiliate ourselves with any organization unless it will increase our awareness of the position of students and schools in Québec society, examine and elevate accessibility, and critically examine what, why and how we learn. Do any of the current configurations offer that potential, and if so, which?

•What is accessibility? How should it be achieved?

The debate on accessibility last year focused on fee payment structures. However, other structural, economic and pedagogical factors may be just as important. What can we do to address the whole spectrum of barriers to accessibility?

•How should education be financed? What roles should governments, students, corporations and local communities play in funding and decision-making in the education system?

The benefits resulting from education are unevenly distributed. How, then, should funding be weighted? Furthermore, those who fund education will have a disproportionate influence on the system. How would FEEQ's "New Partnership" affect universities' autonomy and goals? Would we still be able to separate our educational and research aims from the interests of business and government?

•What are the best means of achieving the goals of the student movement?

Striking is criticized as "radical" and unconstructive, but it is one of the few negotiating tools at students' disposal. However, exploring new tactical avenues is equally important. FEEQ's court case against the *défilé*, for example, may be an effective approach. Should we be ready to use any reasonable means available, or restrict ourselves to a non-confrontational stance towards businesses, government and institutions?

•What social ends should education serve? How should these priorities be reflected in funding and institutional structures, and in the student movement?

Most of the dialogue so far has dealt with the relationship between schools, students, governments and corporations. Other communities have been neglected. Presumably, society and students have allegiances that go beyond profit margins. How can schools and student activists act in concert with community needs? What direction does this dictate in resolving the current impasse?

CAPE (The Coalition for Accessible Public Education)

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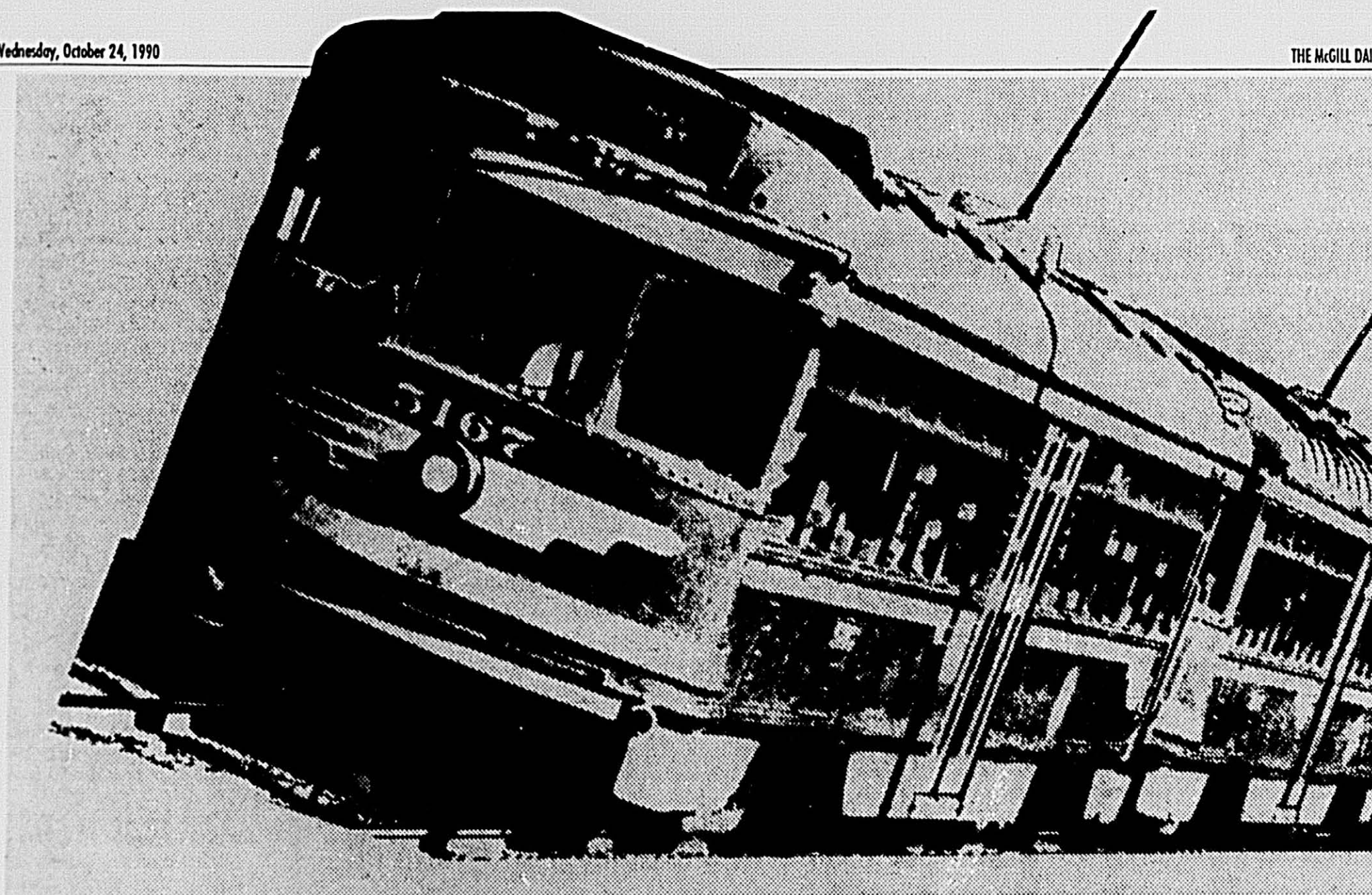
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Last days of ye auld diesel tram

The slow pace of 'green' legislation at the municipal level has made Montréal look like Canada's ecological backwater. The city seems to be behind on all fronts, from garbage disposal to car traffic management.

But Montréal's vehicle emissions problem may be moderated if the city proceeds with a proposal to switch public transit from diesel to natural gas over the next five years.

by Peter Clibbon

Air pollution in the Montréal Urban Community reaches alarming levels, according to Bruce Walker, director of the environmental watchdog group STOP. He said there are 20 days each summer when car-produced smog reaches dangerous levels.

One of a raft of programs hastily tabled by the city at a pre-election council meeting, the new project will investigate converting 1700 city buses and 1300 public vehicles to natural gas and organizing a regional gas distribution network. It was initiated at the behest of the city transit commission (STCUM).

A tank of gasoline produces as much as 400 pounds of carbon dioxide, a major contributor to the 'greenhouse effect', as well as nitrogen oxide and ozone, both lung irritants. But buses burning natural gas emit 30% less carbon dioxide, 50% less carbon monoxide and almost no black smoke and sulphur oxides.

MCM city councillor Arnold Bennett is enthusiastic about the project and hopes it will promote natural gas conversion among the city's car and truck drivers.

"When 3000 city vehicles are running on natural gas, demand will increase as the public gets interested, and potentially the number of natural gas stations could increase," he said.

Bennett predicts city buses will require three years to switch over to natural gas, while city vehicles might take five. The switch-over cannot be completed until vehicles without electronic fuel injection are phased out.

The bus project is unique in North America, although natural gas is used in several European cities, particularly in West Germany and Austria. New York and Boston have experimented with natural gas-powered buses, and Los Angeles has tried liquid hydrogen fuels.

Even though natural gas has been cheap and accessible for the better part of a decade, its consumption has never been promoted on a large scale. Government research into fuel conservation and alternative fuels was reduced in the early 80s as energy problems drifted out of the public mind.

Auto-crat suppression

Guy Chartrand, president of the public transport lobby group Transport 2000, blames the oil and automobile industries for suppressing and discouraging research into alternative fuels, especially for public transportation.

To support his claims, Chartrand points to

a controversial 1974 American government report that pinned the death of clean, electric-powered, urban public transport in many North American cities on the auto industry, particularly General Motors.

The document describes how the car industry acquired many local transit companies and subsequently converted them to gasoline-fuelled buses. As the quality of public transport declined, commuters and municipal policy became more auto-centric, forcing public transit into the government's hands.

"I remember taking the tram on Henri-Bourassa when I was a boy, but in the late 50's (then mayor) Drapeau was convinced by GM executives to abandon electricity and switch over to their locally built buses," said Chartrand.

He sees natural gas-powered buses as only a half-way solution to Montreal's pollution and traffic problems. He looks to the day when the city will return to electric trams and trolley-buses as have many other North American cities, including Los Angeles and Edmonton.

"The technology already exists for absolutely clean transportation powered by electricity. We don't need to re-invent the wheel to find a replacement to a fleet of dirty buses," Chartrand said.

Gaz, cash and no flash

The city bus project is heavily supported by Gaz Métropolitain, which stands to profit from any long term commitment to natural gas, and the provincial and federal governments.

According to Gaz Métropolitain, the STCUM could return its initial investment in two years.

Gaz Métropolitain calculates the STCUM could save up to \$6 million per year in fuel costs, or about \$4000 per bus converted.

(Natural gas is thirty cents a litre cheaper than gasoline, and its price fluctuates less with political embroilments in the oil-rich Middle East.)

"Even if it took much longer to recover the start-up costs and the project runs a deficit, it would be worth the environmental benefit," said Arnold Bennett.

Natural gas is often regarded as a dangerous fuel because it is normally stored in a volatile gaseous form. However, researchers have developed new fuel tank designs that reduce the risk of leaks upon collision.

Four years ago, Montréal's police force experimented fuelling squad cars with natural gas. The results were positive, but switching over was rejected due to a lack of distribution points. Last year, a study by the city's vehicle management department recommended the city research conversion of public vehicles to natural gas and design a fuel distribution network.

As a result, 18 municipal vehicles, mostly cars and small trucks, were equipped for a 15 month trial of the fuel's performance starting last February. The experiment was funded mostly by Gaz Métropolitain, the privately-owned natural gas utility, and by a federal government program supporting alternative fuels.

The results so far are promising. A progress report last August noticed few complications in the switch-over or with the fuel system's reliability, aside from the predictable need for more frequent refuellings at less numerous fuelling stations.

Thus encouraged, the STCUM project will initially try a mixture of natural gas and a small percentage of diesel fuel. According to the STCUM, the new fuel would reduce black smoke emissions, carbon monoxides and dioxides by 80%. Tests on 10 to 15 STCUM buses should begin next March.

One month after the barricades

by Heidi Modro

(CUP) - Nearly a month after the 77-day Mohawk standoff came to an end, Kanesatake residents are suffering from the after-effects of the crisis.

Community organizers say bitter political feuding has broken out. At least seven factions in the 1200-member band are battling over who should speak for the community in upcoming land negotiations.

"People think that just because the barricades are down, the crisis is over," said Joyce Nelson, a member of the Emergency Measures Committee, the community's main social support network.

"All the political frustration has worked its way into the community and has created a lot of tension and hatred."

To help residents psychologically traumatized by the crisis, some community members are asking for government money to set up a three-year counselling program that would include door-to-door outreach, a special hotline number, and special healing circles.

Nelson, who works at the Kanesatake food bank, said the community's many political divisions are a result of years of unresolved socio-political problems within the community and with the



government.

"The situation has been deteriorating for years," Nelson said. "It will take years to heal everyone."

She said many residents are afraid to leave the community even if it means only going to a non-native store to get supplies. They fear the reaction of non-natives, she said.

"There are many people who just don't want to leave their homes," Nelson said. "They feel they're not ready to go out and face the non-native world again."

Feds won't transfer land

The Oka crisis erupted July 11 when Québec police launched an assault on a Kanesatake roadblock, which Mohawks had built to stop the town of Oka from expanding a golf course onto their traditional burial grounds.

Ottawa has since bought the land and plans to turn it over to the Mohawks. But Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon said he will negotiate the transfer of the 67 acres of land only once the community agrees on who should represent it.

Some factions are trying to rid the community of its federally-recognized band council and its chief, which critics charge is appointed by clan mothers who have not in the past allowed the community to participate in the election of

their chiefs.

"They haven't respected our tradition," Nelson said. "They just go around appointing themselves and their friends to these positions."

The Emergency Measures Committee (EMC), a coalition set up between five factions in July, is trying to oust Grand Chief George Martin and members of the band for abandoning the community during the height of the crisis.

The coalition is also accusing the band council of withholding \$32 000 donated for the purchase of food and medicine during the standoff. And it complains the council has not consulted the community in making decisions.

Members of the EMC have called on Siddon to name a native administrator to replace the band council until a community-wide referendum is held.

"It may sound strange for us to be calling on the government, but there is no way right now that we can get consensus as to who should represent us," Nelson said. "Our emphasis right now should be on healing all of our wounds and then we'll hopefully be ready to deal with the government."

Mark Hudson, an aide to Siddon, said the ministry has no plans to appoint anyone to take charge of the community.

"We don't want to impose anything," Hudson said. "The community has to decide itself what it wants and who represents it, and then we can negotiate."

Hudson said there are three ways the land could be transferred back to the Mohawks.

Ottawa could create a reserve, set aside for use by Kanesatake Mohawks in perpetuity. Natives would deal with the federal government directly on all issues and would have the right to set its own health and education policies. But the land would forever be in the trusteeship of the federal government and Natives would not have ultimate control over its future.

The federal government could transfer title to the Mohawks outright. Under such a plan, Kanesatake Natives would become property owners and would have to pay taxes. They would also be under the provincial government's jurisdiction.

continued on page 8

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Lost - my eyeglasses in the biology library on Sunday, the 21st. Blue & black frames. \$20 reward! Let me see again! 482-3360 or Physical Plant.

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A western educated bilingual Togolese age 45 seeks a Canadian-French-German-Philippino for a serious relationship/marriage. Interested write: Box 1706, New Canaan, Ct. 06840-1706, USA.

Is your closet getting too small? Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information/counselling talkline. Call with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

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Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17h30.

Sopranos, Tenors, Basses are needed for McGill Choral Society. repertoire: Rutter's Gloria, PDQ Bach's Seasonings, and others. Rehearsal Wednesday 19h30 in Strathcona Music Building C310.

Travel Club council meeting: Wednesday, October 24th. Union 433, 5:00 pm. Still accepting members. All welcome. Christmas trips: Acapulco starting at \$535.

Quiver, as the deadline approacheth! Oct. 31st shall see the doors to The Red Herring office slam shut, and pleading contributors huddled by the door-frame shall be shunned.

Landlord/tenant? Family? Consumer law? If you need help sorting out your legal problems call or drop by the McGill Legal Information Clinic • M-Fri/10-5 pm • 398-6792 • Rooms B20, B21 & B01B of the student union building! We're here for you!

Gay and Lesbians of McGill 1st beer garden this Thursday 7 pm - 10 pm. Room 425 Union.

Montreal Antiquarian Book Fair
Forty booksellers from across North America. Rare and out-of-print books, maps, manuscripts, postcards. Come browse or buy. Saturday, Sunday, October 27-28. Hotel Maritime, 1155 Guy, two blocks from the metro.

Did you know it's eating disorder week? Attend a video showing and discussion on bulimia led by feminist psychologist Kathie Blackie. Friday Oct. 26, 12-1 pm. Union 423 (Women's Union).

McGill Outing Club. Meeting Wed. 7:30. Otto Maas 112. Trail clearing, Canoeing, Halloween Party. Info 398-6817.

389 - Musicians wanted

Drummer wanted for jamming and occasional show. Place on campus to jam and leave equipment. Police, Van Morrison, Blues Brothers, that kinda stuff. Andrew 684-4549.

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EVENTS

McGill Film Society presents "Fighting for Our Lives", followed by a discussion led by the United Farm Workers, FDA Auditorium, 19h30.

International Socialists meeting, "Troops Out of the Gulf!" Union 302, 19h.

Scrivener Contemporary

Reading Series at Le Tycoon, 20h. Readers Steve Luxton (poet), T.F. Rigelhof (novelist) and musical guest. Free.

Arts Action Committee will meet to investigate the splitting of the ASUS into separate and autonomous faculty associations, Union 310, 16h.

Improvised comedy by McGill Theatresports in the Alley at 22h.

Term paper research workshops, 50 minutes, held at Humanities and Social Sciences Library: English Lit, 16h10, Psych. 17h10. Meet at info desk, McLennan Lobby. Free and open to all

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...Mohawk

continued from page 6
diction and would forfeit any rights to special federal assistance.

Or Kanesatake Mohawks could negotiate a self-government agreement with Ottawa, which would essentially give Natives the same power as a municipal government, but with continued financial assistance from the government for different programs.

The one thing all of Kanesatake's rival political factions agree on is that the government's offer isn't enough.

Band council chief Gerry Etienne accused Ottawa of taking advantage of the many political splits within the community to get the upper hand in the land transfer negotiations.

"The federal government is still using the same old tactic of divide and conquer," Etienne said. "They'd rather see things this divided so they can force Natives to accept whatever they want."

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